

Message Text

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42/10

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 CAB-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FAA-00 /111 W

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R 051410Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9249

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1834

C O R R E C T E D COPY (OSLO ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, DA

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: STATUS REPORT: ORESUND BRIDGE,
SALTHOLM AIRPORT, GREAT BELT BRIDGE, ELSINORE-
HELSINGBORG TUNNEL

REF: COPENHAGEN 1051

STATE PASS COMMERCE

LODON AND BRUSSELS FOR FAA

VIENNA FOR EXIMBANK

1. MAJOR BRIDGE AND AIRPORT PROJECTS APPEAR
TO BE IN FOR FURTHER DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS.
ALTHOUGH AN EARLIER PROPOSAL TO DELAY INDEFI-
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NITELY RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH SWEDEN

ON THESE PROJECTS WAS DEFEATED IN PARLIAMENT (REFTEL), OPPOSITION APPEARS TO BE GAINING SUPPORT. FINAL PARLIAMENTARY VOTE ON RATIFICATION AND INITIATION OF PROJECTS IS NOW SET FOR THIS FALL.

2. GROWING CONCERN OVER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE NEED FOR RESTRAINING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES HAS LED MANY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO CONCLUDE THAT DENMARK CANNOT PRESENTLY AFFORD INITIATING THESE PROJECTS WHICH, IN 1972 PRICES, WOULD INVOLVE EXPENDITURES OF ABOUT \$1 BILLION, EVEN THOUGH THE MAJOR PORTION WOULD PRESUMABLY BE EXTERNALLY FINANCED AND THE PROJECTS EVENTUALLY PAY THEIR OWN WAY IN TOLLS AND OTHER CHARGES. MAIN OPPOSITION IS CONCENTRATED ON THE SALTHOLM AIRPORT PROJECT WHICH MANY CONSIDER REDUNDANT. THEY CITE STAGNATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOLLOWING THE OIL CRISIS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF LARGER AIRCRAFT AS TRENDS INDICATING THAT FUTURE REQUIREMENTS COULD WELL BE HANDLED BY EXPANDING PRESENT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FACILITIES AT KASTRUP. OPPONENTS OF THE GREAT BELT BRIDGE BELIEVE A MORE ECONOMICAL RAILWAY TUNNEL WOULD BE A SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE.

3. CIVIL SERVANTS INVOLVED IN THESE PROJECTS HAVE TOLD US THEY EXPECT DEFEAT IN PARLIAMENT IF QUESTION IS BROUGHT UP THIS FALL. WE ALSO HAVE REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY PROPOSE POSTPONING THE PROJECTS TO 1976-77 IN LINE WITH THE BUDGETARY AUSTERITY PROGRAM TO BE INTRODUCED THIS FALL. IF PROJECTS ARE POSTPONED, A NEW AGREEMENT WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH SWEDEN.
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